

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 4.

AURELIA, IOWA, APRIL, 1898.

No. 2.

GREAT BIG Light Brahmas,

Stock and eggs for sale in season. My birds will suit you. Ask for prices.

L. M. ROWE, Galva, Iowa.

White Face Black Spanish.

I have bred them 34 years without intermission. Shipping eggs for hatching a specialty. Send for circular and prices and my phiz. (Stamp, please.

JOHN BENNETT, Sunman, Ind.

White Plymouth Rocks EXCLUSIVELY
Eggs \$1 for 15;
\$1.75 for 30. Inquiries promptly answered.
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Barred P. Rocks, EXCLUSIVELY

First prize cock at Big 4 Poultry Show at head of yards. Eggs \$2.00 per 13. Write.

B. L. DART, Hartington, Neb.

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AND AFRAID TO JUMP,

WRITE ME, and I will send you my circular

For Assistance.

—My Pens of Barred and White—

Plymouth Rocks, and
White Wyandottes,
are rare ones, and

I CAN ASSIST YOU

If you want good ones.

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And B. Minorcas.

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WHITE WYANDOTTES.

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Six Dollars per 100 from high scoring stock, Pairs and trios for sale mated for best results.

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All scored birds, from 90 to 94 points by Hewes. No stock for sale. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of 13.

G. H. GRANDSTAFF,
Aurelia, Iowa.

YOU DON'T WANT

Low grade Barred Plymouth Rocks. The country is full of birds like that which nobody will buy if they know it. Mine are Felch, Thompson and Bradley Brothers stock. They are Barred Plymouth Rocks of the best class—straight from the yards of the best breeders in America. They score up to 93½ points by Hewes. YOU DO WANT Barred Plymouth Rocks of that kind, if you want any. Eggs \$2.50 per sitting.

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For circular of choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs. A fine lot of cockerels and pullets to sell and eggs from ten choice yards. Mention Messenger when you write.

Golden Wyandottes

Golden Seabright Bantams.

Get my prices on breeding and exhibition stock before buying elsewhere.

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My stock is first-class, and has won valuable premiums this year in strong competition. Cockerels \$1.50 to \$2.00. Eggs from 4 pens at from \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Pekin Ducks.

I will have a limited number of eggs to spare from stock of the best quality. Price, \$1.00 per sitting.

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WHITE Wyandottes,

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bred for utility and Standard requirements. They lay lots of eggs and win many premiums in my hands; they can do the same in yours.

I also breed Game Bantams and Homing Pigeons of rare quality. Write your wants. Mention Messenger.

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Silver, White and Golden. White Guineas, Holland Turkeys and Pekin Ducks. Scored.
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EXCLUSIVELY.

Eggs from best pens \$3.00 for 13; \$5.00 for 30. All others \$1.50 straight.

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"Zebra," "Royal Blue" and "Ringlet" strains, from grand breeding pens for 1898.

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Good breeding cockerels at one dollar each. Eggs one dollar and fifty cts. per setting of 15; two settings for two dollars and fifty cents. My prices are low, but my stock is of high quality.

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Young stock for sale bred from birds scoring 93 points and over. You will find my prices very reasonable. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of 15.

ALFRED ANDRAE, Aurelia, Iowa.

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A Household Paper, WOMANKIND, 50c a year.
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We have the right from the originator to advertise and sell these plants at his prices, so you are sure of genuine stock coming direct from originator. Send for description and prices

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The best monthly SWINE JOURNAL IN AMERICA, edited by well known breeders who feed hogs every day. Send

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LEE'S LICE KILLER

It's liquid, but there is no dipping. You just paint it onto the roosts, nest boxes, walls, etc. Kills lice, fleas, bugs and mites instantly. Price 75c gal. Our **CERMO-ZONE** prevents and cures roup, swelled head, cholera, etc. Large 12oz. bottle 50c. All about these, prices, etc., and "How to Get Eggs in Winter" sent free. Send 6c to pay postage on sample.

Geo. H. Lee Co. Omaha, Neb.

The Poultry Messenger.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. IV.

AURELIA, IOWA, APRIL, 1898.

NO. 2.

Rearing Chicks in Yards.

Some people find it necessary to rear their chicks in yards. They haven't a range to give them, and the yarding is unavoidable. The young stock can be successfully brought up in this way, but it is an admitted fact that without free range during the growing period it can never attain the highest state of perfection. Judicious feeding will, of course, do much towards lessening the evils of close confinement, but the best system of feeding which can be devised will not wholly atone for them. No artificial combination of food which can be devised is equal to the gleanings of the field and the grove, and no exercise which they can take even in a yard of large size is like that which they obtain in their unrestricted wanderings on the range. Last season this writer hatched out a brood the 20th of March. The eggs were bought of a noted breeder, and it was expected that a portion of the chicks, at least, would develop into something of high value. We felt that we could not afford to allow them to run at will in a neighborhood where they would be constantly exposed to the assaults of dogs and cats. We made a yard for them four rods long and one rod wide. This yard was well shaded at one end, and the sunny spots were covered with a blue grass sod. The bare places under the trees were frequently spaded up, and the wheat, oats and cracked corn were scattered on this loose soil and covered with a rake. The little flock was plentifully supplied with bone and grit, and regularly furnished with lean meat. As to the latter, if the leavings from the table were not sufficient, it was brought from the meat market. In short, we neglected nothing which we thought would have a tendency to overcome the effects of the confinement. We didn't lose one of the brood, and they all had the appearance

of being in perfect health; and yet when the time arrived for transferring them to the winter houses they were no nearer standard weight than other broods which were hatched three and four weeks later and given their freedom during the summer. In fact the heaviest cockerel we reared, and which, but for an accident that happened to him in the winter, would have been our choice as the head of our best show pen, was hatched a full month later than this carefully watched over brood.

People who are compelled to bring up the broods in confinement will not long remain in ignorance of the fact that it is next to impossible to thus rear birds of the finest development.

Well Hatched.

The veteran writer, W. H. Rudd, of South Natick, Mass., says: "If you find a chick twenty-four hours old that is unable to stand alone, and whose legs seem to have 'gone back' on it, kill it and put it out of its misery. Such seldom live, and, if they do, are usually good for nothing. A chicken that is not well hatched had better have remained in the shell."

Making Assurance Doubly Sure.

In the prairie region of the west one of the greatest dangers to the brood is the high wind which overturns the coops and exposes the chicks to a driving rainstorm. There is no estimating the number of broods which are annually destroyed in this way. It does not pay to take the chances against these winds when two or three stout stakes driven alongside the coop and nailed fast will make it absolutely secure against any wind short of a tornado. In most seasons the coops will be safe without this precaution, but he who habitually trusts to luck against this danger will some day get a dose which will

make him feel sorry for the neglect. Accidents enough will happen which no care or foresight can prevent. It is bad policy to court those which are of an avoidable character. Last season one of our advertisers wrote us that he lost over a hundred early hatched chicks in a terrific rain and wind storm which swept over his locality one night in May. A half hour's work would have saved the lives of all those birds. However busy that breeder may have been at the time, we cannot believe that he could have occupied his hands with any task which would have paid him better than making his brood coops stormproof.

Meeting the Demand.

You are justified in selling a man what he wants and asks for, if you have it on hand. You may have a private opinion that he don't want it, but you can't "always sometimes tell." We once knew a man who bought a disqualified cockerel against the advice and protests of the seller. The cockerel was the means of furnishing him with several prize takers which floored everything that tried to stand up against them. That man was set down as a greenhorn when he made the purchase. But he was no greenhorn. He knew what he wanted.

Two for the Price of One.

We will send The Messenger and either of the following journals to any address for 50 cents. The regular subscription price of all the papers in the list is 50 cents. You get The Messenger for nothing,

The Reliable Poultry Journal.
The Poultry Tribune. (Freeport, Ill.)
The Poultry Herald.
The Michigan Poultry Breeder.
American Poultry Journal.
Inter-State Poultryman.
The Poultry-Keeper.
Poultry Culture, Kansas City, Mo.
Western Garden.
Dakota Field and Farm.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

The Farmer's Scrubs.

The farmer is being continually "raked over the coals" for his lack of interest in thoroughbred poultry. The farmers, as a rule, keep scrubs, and are placidly indifferent to all the bombardment they receive for refusing to exchange them for thoroughbreds. Some charge this to the farmer's stupidity, and others to his stinginess. It can't be the latter, for the farmer does not hesitate to pay out good money for the purpose of raising the grade of his cattle and hogs, and sheep. Of course there are farmers and farmers. The genuine scrub farmer is scrubby all along the line. But there are lots of progressive farmers who appreciate the value of improved cattle, hogs and sheep, but draw the line on improved chickens. These farmers are not stupid, nor are they stingy in the sense of declining to part with money for things which it would be to their advantage to own. They would keep fullblood fowls if they were fully persuaded that it would be profitable for them to do so. The money which it would take to buy the stock really has very little to do with it. We are of the opinion that the breeders of thoroughbred poultry are responsible for this condition of things in greater degree than they know. In their circulars they tell the farmer, if they address him at all, the exact number of points their birds score, but they seldom say anything about the number of eggs they laid within a given time, or in this particular just how far by actual test they proved themselves better than the scrubs. The ordinary farmer cares nothing about points. He wants eggs, and when he has been convinced that he can get more of them from the fullbloods than he can from the scrubs, the scrubs will go. We believe in standardbred poultry, and would travel farther to see a 96-point Barred Plymouth Rock than we would to see the sea serpent, or a specimen of true Spanish honor; but it seems plain to us that the farmer is not interested in high scores, and if breeders want to wean him away from his scrubs they must talk something else to him besides points. They should either do this or quit whacking him over the head for his ignorance regarding the superiority of fullbloods over scrubs. The fact is that the catalogues and circulars are gotten up with-

out much thought about the farmers, because the farmers have proved rather slow customers; but can we reasonably hope for any great improvement along this line until better plans are put in operation for convincing the farmers that it would be dollars in their pockets to discard the scrubs and take up with the thoroughbreds?

Wild Hens in the Hatching Room.

A nervous, excitable hen or pullet is a troublesome thing to handle in the hatching room, and the best way to be relieved of the trouble is not to have that kind of hens or pullets. We cannot get rid of the belief that if a bird acts as if it were afraid of its life every time it is approached by its owner it is the owner's fault. If the bird has always been in his care it will not be afraid of him unless it has had some reason to be so. The Leghorns are as timid as any of the breeds, and make as much resistance to familiarity as any; but the Leghorns will permit themselves to be handled, and will even manifest a fondness for it, if they have been treated with uniform gentleness and kindness. The larger breeds, which are naturally of a tamer disposition, should not give their owner any trouble on the score of wildness. We are tempted to say that in every case where they do so the owner is to blame for it.

Eggs or Stock.

Probably ninety-nine poultry keepers out of every one hundred got their start with a sitting or two of eggs. There is much said about the manner of beginning—whether with eggs or stock. The fact of the matter is the size of the pocketbook will usually determine the manner of the beginning. Ordinarily people who are not cramped for money will buy birds, while those with light pocketbooks will buy eggs. It cannot fairly be said that the one plan is any better than the other for the beginner. There will be culls from the eggs which he buys and there will be culls from the eggs laid by the birds that he buys. There will be culls in any case, and he has got to learn how to breed in order to be burdened with the fewest number of them. It will be due to nothing better than luck if the average run of his birds the second year prove as good as those produced by the well mated pen

delivered to him by an expert breeder. With any breed, it takes time and experience to learn how to mate. It is a grave mistake to suppose that if one starts with good stock it will always remain good apart from intelligent selection and culling. Such a thing as a thoroughbred scrub is recognized by breeders of cattle and all four-footed animals, and this kind of a scrub is looked upon as the meanest in existence.

The majority of people who make a beginning in thoroughbred poultry culture are not overburdened with money. They are for the most part people of small means. They will start with a sitting or two of eggs, and in four or five years from now, if they stick to their task and properly qualify themselves for the work which they have undertaken, they will be quite as well fixed as if they had made their beginning with a well mated pen. The pen would enable them to supply themselves with a larger number of birds the first and second years, but there is no advantage in possessing a large number of birds in advance of the time that you know what to do with them.

You Want Fertile Eggs.

If you want fertile eggs in the spring you must let up on the corn diet, and give the hens access to some kind of green stuff. Bluegrass is the thing, and if the yards are bare, pull up some of it every day and throw it to the hens, or spade up a sod and let them scratch and pick it to pieces. Yes, it is puttering work, but it is work which will pay. And it won't pay to have the hens come off the nests with only the third of a hatch and thus compel you to be bringing out broods a month later than they ought to be hatched. If the hens are healthy, fresh, tender bluegrass will usually settle the matter of fertility to your satisfaction.

The new standard provides that all solid colored birds shall be handicapped one and one-half points when competing with parti-colored birds. What a beautiful time the buffs will have in getting what belongs to them under that clause. Since, in addition to this, the judge is at perfect liberty to follow his own sweet will as to color, the buffs will go into the fight next winter closely enough handicapped to suit anybody but their friends.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

What They Know About It.

There is much difference of opinion with reference to the effects of inbreeding. A beginner seeking information on the subject will become badly addled by what he reads in the journals. One writer is dead against inbreeding to any extent, and predicts direful consequences as the result of mating birds bearing any sort of relationship to each other. The next writer goes to the other extreme and declares that inbreeding does not exert any harmful effect whatever upon physical characteristics, but that it does impair the mental qualities of the higher order of creatures. In confirmation of what he says he refers you to the idiot in the human species whose muscular development is generally the best of that of any member of the family to which he belongs. The low order of intelligence possessed by fowls makes them safe from the operation of the law which undermines the mental powers of the human being, and, it is stoutly contended, wise inbreeding in such a case will preserve and intensify the best physical characteristics of a family or strain, and that there is no other process by which this can be so well accomplished. These are the two sides of the argument, and it is probable that the truth lies somewhere between the two extremes. We would not hesitate to inbreed to some extent. Indeed we would surrender all hope of ever producing an evenly marked flock of fine birds without some inbreeding; and yet we would not feel safe in going on from year to year mating up our breeding pens in utter disregard of the relationship of the birds. We don't know that we should be the loser by it, but are free to say that we would be afraid to try it. We are favorable to inbreeding, when directed and controlled by one who knows what he wants to accomplish and how to reach the object in view, but hold to the theory that there is a limit beyond which it cannot safely be carried by anyone.

Feeding the Sitting Hens.

Whole corn is generally regarded as the best feed for the sitting hens. Whole corn and nothing else. It is perfectly safe to confine the hens to this for three weeks, as a rule. Occasionally a hen will be met with that requires something more. She was prob-

ably not in prime condition when she entered upon her task, and will refuse to eat the corn in sufficient amount for her sustenance. She may be induced to stick to her contract until it is finished if given a varied ration, but will refuse to attend to business if made to subsist upon corn alone. Corn is the rule for sitting hens. But all rules have exceptions. Many a hen that has died on the nest could have been kept alive long enough to hatch her brood if the rule in regard to corn had been abandoned.

Don't Lose Your Head.

Ill humor and abuse are poor weapons to use on people with whom you have had dealings for the purpose of forcing them to give you juster treatment than you think you have received at their hands. During the egg season and the few months immediately following it, many letters go through the mails which had better never been written. Shippers of eggs sometimes make mistakes and send something different from what has been ordered, and quite as often buyers of eggs are altogether too hasty in jumping at conclusions, and fly all to pieces when they have fully got their money's worth and have no occasion for complaint. Breeders of the black varieties have received some very abusive letters because the chicks were not all black when first hatched, and the writers forgot to apologize for their rudeness when they became old enough to know that they had no cause for making a row. There are frauds in the poultry business—just about the same proportion of them as you will find in any other reputable business; but if you don't get what you pay for in your dealings with the poultry breeder, he will make it right with you ninety-nine times out of a hundred. But don't go at him with a club. You first want to convince him of his error, and he may have to take your word for it that an error has been made. The flourishing of the club will not inspire him with confidence in your truthfulness.

Don't Crowd.

Scatter the brood coops over as wide a space as circumstances will permit. It saves work to have them all in a bunch, but the work thus saved will not count to your advantage in the long

run. Ground that is tramped over every minute in the day affords no food for the chicks such as they will find in their wanderings over a space which is less frequently worked over. And then there will be a difference of several weeks in the ages of some of the broods, and the younger ones will have a sorry time of it competing with the older at the feed troughs. Cross mother hens, too, will pick to death many youngsters that in their heedlessness or greediness invade domains which do not belong to them. Keep the broods apart, even if this does necessitate more steps at feeding time. It prevents fighting, reduces the chances of disease, and insures a more thorough harvesting and better distribution of the treasures of the range.

Cut Bone for Chicks.

The chief value of a bone cutter is commonly supposed to be in the preparation of green bone for the laying hens in winter. But the owner of a bone cutter will not allow it to lie idle after the winter is over, if he fully appreciates the advantages of the machine. And those who do not own a bone cutter are laboring under a mistake if they if they entertain the idea that there will be nothing gained by the purchase of one before next fall. Regular feeding of green bone to the chicks will insure their escape from many troubles to which they would otherwise be subject, and will make them enough better in the fall to convince the owner that he never made a better investment than when he purchased the machine. Healthy, robust, growthy chicks are what bring delight to the owner and put money in his pockets. Anything, within reasonable cost, which contributes to this end, is not a convenience merely, but a necessity. People can have good chicks without a bone cutter. But they cannot, with the same time and labor, have them equally as good without the aid of it as with it.

Keeps Them in Health.

It is said that coarse wheat bran is an excellent thing to keep in a protected place near the brood coops where the chicks can obtain access to it at all times. It seems to have the effect of preventing the bowel troubles which often carry off such a large proportion of the youngsters.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

She Don't Need Your Help.

The owner of the hen can render her very little assistance when the chicks begin to emerge from the shells. He had better convince himself that he has more important business elsewhere, and leave her to boss the job. She will make some blunders, and is quite liable to kill one or more members of her family by her awkwardness, but it will not help matters any for the owner to try to instruct her in her duties. It is difficult for some people, particularly beginners in poultry culture, to keep their hands out of the nest at hatching time. They cannot restrain their curiosity, and think that perhaps there is something wrong in the nest which needs their attention. And, as a fact, they will sometimes find a partly hatched chick in a plight which would have ended in its death but for their assistance; but they don't know what other troubles they have caused by disturbance to the hen in the rescue of the chick. Those who make a business of poultry keeping, and have a knowledge of it born of long experience, make it a rule to permit no interference with the hen at the time of hatching. They understand that they could save the life of a chick now and then by an examination, but know that this always excites and frets the hen, and is usually productive of more harm than good. The gentlest biddy protests against any intrusive assistance at this time, and we have become convinced that it is best to leave her entirely alone. When there is reason to believe that the hatch has been completed, the hand may be gently introduced into the nest and the empty eggshells easily accessible removed, but beyond this any attempts at assistance will be of doubtful advantage.

Hens That Leave the Nest.

If the sitting hen leaves the nest, and in her idiocy fails to find her way back to it, though seemingly anxious to resume her task, it is not advisable to assume that the eggs are spoiled, even though they have been exposed for twelve hours or more. Assist the hen back on the nest, and see to it that she does not leave it again without your permission. The eggs may be entirely cold to the touch and yet produce a reasonably good hatch. This is something which has been tested a great number of times, and it is an ill-judged act to

throw such eggs away on the presumption that they are ruined. One of this writer's neighbors once had a sitting hen in a barrel placed in a rather low spot out of doors. A heavy rain flooded the nest, driving off the hen, and ten hours later the eggs were found entirely covered by water. They were moved to another spot, the nest rebuilt, and the hen again placed in charge. The result was eleven chicks from the thirteen eggs. Eggs will stand more exposure than is generally supposed, but this should not encourage carelessness in regard to the means necessary for persuading the hen to properly attend to her duties.

Probably a Case of Spring Fever.

The man who has several pens of fowls and has kept them in confinement since last fall, will be very fortunate if he does not have some ailing hens before it is time to break up the breeding pens. The hens may not be seriously sick, but are only suffering from that "tired feeling" so much harped upon by the sarsaparilla man. The best attentions which can be given the birds will not suffice to keep all of them in perfect health. As a usual thing all that is required to bring these mopish birds back to health is to take them out of the pens and turn them loose on the grass. Don't experiment with medicines. If you know of something that will exactly fill the bill, use it; but don't waste any time guessing. And, in any event, the hen will be all the better for a weeks' run on the range, and at the end of that time will be ready to go back into the regular quarters. Change of food, and some of nature's medicine in the shape of the green stuff just peeping through the ground and the animal life hidden away in the clumps of dead leaves and grass, is all that is needed to restore the appetites and cure the ailments of three-fourths of the birds which get out of condition and refuse their food in the spring.

Starting a Strain.

Do you know which is your best hen—not necessarily the highest scoring one that you possess, but your best all round hen? If you know this, put her in a small pen to herself, a good, comfortable brood coop will do, surrounded by a couple rods of netting. Change

the location of the yard once a week if the grass becomes too closely cropped. Admit the male bird to her every third day, carrying him there from his perch at daylight, and taking him away at the end of a half hour. When she has laid half a dozen eggs set them. By the time she has laid the next half dozen she will probably show signs of broodiness. If so, set her on her own eggs, preferably in the brood coop, to which she has by this time grown accustomed, and will be more contented there than elsewhere. Mark all the chicks hatched from this hen's eggs. Next season separate her the same as you have done this season, and breed to her the best cockerel from her own brood. You will thus lay the foundation for a strain which in a few years can be depended upon to breed true to its own type. When you want new blood in your strain go to the shows and carefully look over the birds on exhibition, and when you have found a pullet to your taste buy her, and obtain your new blood through her. Or if you know a breeder who can be relied upon to give you a true history of his flock, and send you a pullet precisely in accordance with your description, buy of him.

You must do this kind of breeding, or obtain your stock of someone else who has done it, in order to have a uniform flock. Hap-hazard methods don't go in the standardbred poultry business.

Poultry and Plums.

If the poultry yard is permanently located, don't neglect the planting of the plum trees this spring, if you live in a locality adapted to the growing of this fruit. There is nothing on this earth more thoroughly proven than the existence of a close partnership between poultry and plums. You have got to provide shade for the poultry yard. Its a cruelty to keep hens in a yard during the hot weather of summer without protection from the sun other than that which they obtain from the building. The plum trees, if improved varieties, will produce fruit enough to pay half the feed bill of the flock which makes its home in the yard which they occupy. Plant the trees closer than it is intended they shall stand when full grown, with the calculation of thinning out as the tops spread and call for additional room.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

Packing Eggs for Shipment.

A man ought not to advertise eggs for sale until he has learned how to pack them so they will carry with reasonable safety. The express messengers are not responsible for all the damage that befalls the eggs which pass through their hands. While some of the messengers are no doubt worse than careless in their manner of handling them, we believe that as a rule they make an effort to get them to the buyer in good shape. The eggs which have come to us in the worst plight were in that state because they had not been properly packed for shipment. We could not in justice blame the express messenger for the ugly mess in which they reached us, for he can fairly assume that the shipper has taken ordinary precautions against the jars incident to transportation. No method of packing will make the eggs perfectly secure from breakage, but it is only occasionally that a broken egg will be found in the lot when the package has been properly prepared for shipment. When a damaged package of this description is delivered to us it is usually in a state of general wreck, indicating that it has met with a fall or a violent jam which nothing of this character could resist. It is not our intention to try to point out to the reader the safest and best mode of packing. People who ship successfully do not all use the same material or pack according to the same plan. A man's good sense ought to be a sufficient guide for him. If it is not he need not hope to convince his patrons that he is blameless in the matter, and that the broken eggs are chargeable to the carelessness of the express messengers. The mode of packing will tell its own story.

Not in the Poultry House.

If a person were intent upon picking out the very worst place he could find for the sitting hen, he could not in any manner better attain the object he has in mind than by locating her in the poultry house. Here she will be subject to the constant annoyance of the layers, will breed lice about a dozen times faster than in any other place, will go without food many times when she comes off the nest in search of it, and will often have a writ of ejectment served upon her when she attempts to return to her eggs. The sitting hen should never be given a place in the

poultry house unless there is a small section of it set aside for her own use in which she will be safe from all intrusion. But the best plan is to take her entirely away from the poultry house and make her a nest in some secluded spot where she can peacefully attend to her duties secure from outside annoyance. We believe in outdoor nests for the sitting hens after the first of April, and we give them the preference even in March if judgment is used in fitting them up to meet the conditions of the season. The poultry house should be the last place thought of for this purpose at any time.

Treating Cropbound.

A case of cropbound which continues over twenty-four hours is not likely to be relieved by any means short of the knife. Pouring oil or melted lard down the throat and gently kneading the contents of the crop with the hand will often relieve the tension and cause the mass to pass off in the natural way. It is always advisable to try this before resorting to more extreme measures; but if no good effect is perceptible at the end of twenty-four hours it will usually be found that it is useless to delay the use of the knife any longer. The chances of quick recovery will be better if the operation is performed before the hen is greatly weakened by deprivation of food consequent upon the impaction. It requires no great skill to perform the operation, and a recovery will follow in the majority of instances even when the cutting has been done by an inexperienced hand. The principal thing to guard against is the improper stitching of the wound, it being essential that the inner and outer skins be closed up separately, and not sewed together.

Silver Spangled Hamburgs and Pekin Ducks.

I have some very fine stock for sale at prices which you will admit are reasonable.
E. D. FRAUTSCHY, Monticello, Wis.



G. W. TOYNE
Glidden, Iowa
Breeder and
Mater of
**SILVER-LACED
WYANDOTTES,
Only.**
Eggs \$1 for 15.
Stock all Sold.

LEE'S LICE KILLER

HEN COMFORT means HEN PROFIT—that is a plain, truthful proposition known to every poultry man. Hens can't be profitable when their bodies are covered with lice which sap their life-blood, destroying their vitality and disturbing their general health. The remedy is found in **LEE'S LICE KILLER**. It's liquid, but there is no dipping. You just paint it onto the roosts, nest boxes, walls, etc. Kills lice, fleas, bugs and mites instantly. Price 75c gal. Our **GERMO-ZONE** prevents and cures roup, swelled head, cholera, etc. Large 12-oz. bottle 50c. All about these, prices, etc., and "How to Get Eggs in Winter" sent free. Send 6c to pay postage on sample.

Geo. H. Lee Co. Omaha, Neb

Want a Brooder?

Not a Toy, but a Business Brooder. Roomy, Easy to Clean.

Top and bottom heat; Perfect Ventilation.

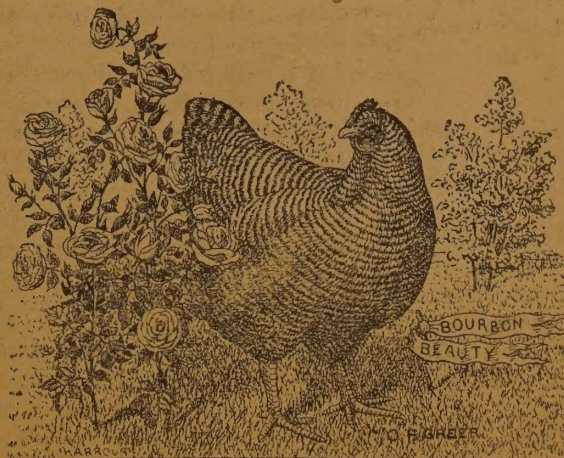
New 'American' Incubator and Brooder

POULTRY SUPPLIES

MOST COMPLETE STOCK IN AMERICA.

OUR BOOK, "EVERYTHING FOR THE POULTRY YARD," Tells ALL 60 pages, finely illustrated, full of information. If you keep a hen you want it. Sent for 2c stamp.

GEO. J. NISSLY, Saline, Mich.



BARRED P. ROCKS.

"Zebra," "Royal Blue" and "Ringlet" strains, from grand breeding pens for 1898.

My Famous Strain of Brown Leghorns

are still in the lead. Send for circular. Eggs, \$2.00 per 15.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

Private Scoring and Mating a Specialty.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

THE POULTRY MESSENGER, AND Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

There is some fellow who wants your stock, if it is worth having. How to get that fellow to find you out is the important question with you. When you have correctly solved it the battle is won. Other people with no better stock than your own succeed in getting in touch with the fellows who want to buy it.

He who aims to make a living by means of poultry culture must be industrious and hard-working. But hard work alone will not bring success. Some of the hardest working people in the world make a failure of life. The labor must be wisely directed—in accordance with a well thought out plan. Lots of people who toiled early and late in the chicken business have ended up with considerably less money than they had to start with.

The advertising which pays best is that which the conscientious breeder does through his dealings with his customers. And the breeder who is not conscientious can soon advertise himself out of business in that way.

The fellow is around again offering to tell people how to pick out the fertile eggs from the infertile ones in advance of submitting them to incubation. If a hundredth part of the poultry keepers had as little sense as the few who play into this fellow's hands, he would be rich enough by this time to retire from business.

High fences about the breeding yards are better evidence of an honest purpose than a big catalogue. Have the fences high enough, even if it takes a page or two from the catalogue to make them so.

If the sitting hen decides to make her nest in the hayloft, and she is not particularly in anybody's way there, it is just as well to let her alone and permit her to hatch her brood in the place of her choice. She has hen sense. Don't

Do These Prices Suit?

We Pay Express Charges.

250 Note Heads
250 Envelopes

\$2.50.

5-LINE BREEDERS CARD 3 MONTHS.
We use nothing under 7-lb packet note, 6x9½ inches, and standard grade 6½ envelope. Cut of any breed on paper and envelopes that may be desired. You will be sent a due bill for the breeders card entitling you to the advertising space any time within a year from the date of issue.

Poultry Messenger

bother about the lack of moisture. It may be a scheme of hers to show you that she has some old fashioned notions in regard to this moisture question which are not to be sneezed at.

The road to success is through a maze of mistakes and failures. The man who trips and falls and lies sprawling on the ground bemoaning the misstep which brought him down, isn't fit for the chicken business, or for much of anything else. The chicken business would lose half of its attractiveness if people of this stamp could succeed in it.

The people who are now breeding from 50-cent roosters are the ones who next winter will have the most to say about the incompetency of the poultry judges.

You buy both eggs and knowledge when you buy of a man whose stock has won for him a reputation as a successful breeder. You can buy eggs without having this knowledge thrown in, and if you have been in the business any length of time you can no doubt recall instances where you have done that very thing.

Theodore Sternberg is being talked of for congress from his district in Kansas. It is believed that there are many members of that body who are not up to standard, and that some are so badly off in good points that they ought to be disqualified. If Theodore succeeds in getting there it is hoped that he will make out a score of the aggregation, undercolor and all, and let us judge if the show is worth what it costs to hold it.

Even though the hen is a machine, it must not be forgotten that it takes some intelligence to run a machine. If it is a very complicated machine, the proper running of it calls for more intelligence

than the average human being possesses. And the hen is that kind of a machine.

There is only one problem which the poultryman needs to despair of, and that is finding out anything about the rule governing the fixing of express charges. It will be a waste of time for him to try to learn anything about it. He can guess at it, as the agents do, but he had better be content to let the matter rest at that.

No man will learn all about the poultry business the first year. The first year will teach him what he don't know about the poultry business, and knock a good deal of nonsense out of him which he mistook for solid facts. The first year is simply clearing the ship for action, and getting in good shape for business some other year.

The manager of the poultry department of the Utah Experiment Station has ascertained that the profit of feeding pullets and young hens is just six times greater than in feeding hens three and four years old. This conclusion is arrived at as the result of a scientific test reaching through the space of a year. Somebody only a short time ago was telling poultrymen how much more profitable old hens are than pullets, and advising them to keep the hens until they are five and six years old. Who was it? He is wanted at the Utah Experiment Station where a job and good wages are awaiting him if he can demonstrate the correctness of his teachings.

You cannot buy a breeder's best birds. His best birds are for his own use, and he will not part with them. But you can buy a sitting of eggs from him which may produce something as good as his best.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

Success With the Incubator.

G. A. C. CLARKE in R. P. Journal.

First.—A fresh, strongly fertilized egg, the product of healthy, vigorous, mature stock. The egg from a year old or over hen will produce a livelier chick and one that can stand more moderate hard usage than will the egg from the immature pullet. If you use an incubator and have both hen and pullet eggs from which to get your crop of chicks, hatch the hen eggs artificially, but the pullet eggs naturally, if possible. Put the hen and pullet eggs in the same incubator, and of those chicks that die in the shell you will find a large majority are contained in the eggs which are laid by the pullets. It is assumed, of course, that the conditions affecting the breeding stock are similar, as regards feed, care, and other essentials.

Second.—Temperature should be as near as possible 103 degrees the first ten days. The bulb of the thermometer to be between and touching two fertile eggs, the top of the bulb level with the tops of the two eggs.

It is a good plan (and oftentimes very instructive) to run the machine without eggs for a few days. Get five thermometers which are true and identical in their readings. Place them one in each corner and one in the center of the egg tray, with their bulbs the same distance from the bottom of the tray, one and one-half inches is about right, that being the diameter of the egg. In theory these five thermometers should be all alike in their readings when the chamber gets heated; in reality they are seldom so found. If this is the case elevate the colder end of machine until you get the readings about approximate. If diagonally opposite corners vary considerably, as in some cases I have found them to do, trade your machine off for a few setting hens. Their body temperature varies collectively, but never individually.

Third.—Ventilation enough to dry out the contents of the shell so that the air space in the large end may be of sufficient size to give the chick room to turn itself round when breaking the shell. This will require some study and and observation in order to get the required amount of air space. The shortest road to success in this line is to set one or two hens the same day and in the same place as that in which is

your incubator. Compare the air space of the eggs under the hens with that of eggs in the machine. Make this comparison frequently (say every second night) during the incubating period.

Fourth.—Moisture. In any underground location, such as a cave or a cellar, my experience (short as it has been) teaches me that no moisture is necessary in most of the hatches, and only a very little when chicks are coming out if the outside air is very dry and has been so for several days. The size of the air space in the large end of the egg depends on moisture and ventilation. In a cellar, especially in damp weather, it is a hard enough matter to evaporate the eggs sufficiently, and to add moisture artificially, there being already a surplus naturally, is only to endanger the chances of a good hatch.

Fifth.—Hands off at hatching time. Do not open the doors of your machine under any circumstances. To do so is fatal to the welfare and subsequent thrift of the downy chicks you have been waiting patiently for for twenty-one days. As the man travelling with a magic lantern said to his audience, "This, ladies and gentlemen, is the fattened calf which a loving parent had kept and fed for three years in anticipation of his prodigal son's return." Many incubators are now made with a good space under the egg-tray. The most of the chicks when hatched will drop down into this nursery where they are out of the way of those coming out of the shell. Leave them here for thirty-six hours from the time the first one hatched and go and make ready the brooder to receive them.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surface.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars! free
F. J. CHENEY & CO Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists, 75c
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

EGGS FROM

HIGH-CLASS LIGHT BRAHMAS.

At farmers' prices. \$1 for 15; \$1.50 for 30; \$3.75 per hundred. We aim to please, and you will not be disappointed in our stock.

L. M. ROWE, Galva, Iowa.

BUFF P. ROCKS

This is my third year in Buff Plymouth Rocks, and I regard my stock as the equal of any that I have seen, and I have seen the best that has been put on exhibition at the western shows.

Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of 13. A few cockerels for sale at from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

A. L. BELEW, Aurelia, Iowa.

IF YOU USE AN

Archemidian Bone Cutter

we'll guarantee you'll have

PLENTY OF EGGS

this winter; we manufacture

4 SIZES 4

Prices \$7.50 Up

We also originated and manufacture

The Perfection Swinging Feed Troughs.

Wholesale agents for P. D. Q. Lice Killer.

Send for Catalogue.

Archemidian Bone Cutter Co.,

Mention this paper.

MILFORD, MASS.

DEER PARK POULTRY YARDS.

J. H. Hanson, Luana, Iowa.

PROPRIETOR.

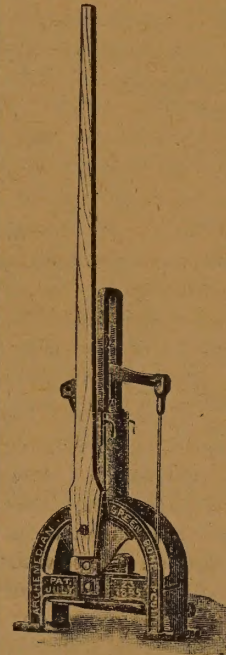
Our pen of Barred Rox is headed by the 1st prize cock at the Minnesota and Wisconsin State Fairs. We also breed the very best Rose Comb Brown Leghorns and Red Caps. Eggs \$1.00 per 12; when two or more sittings are ordered at once will give the Western Garden and Poultry Journal one year.

✦ Cornish Indians ✦

EXCLUSIVELY.

I have some fine stock for sale, and can furnish you with as good birds as you can buy anywhere.

C. C. OSTERHOLD, Quincy, Illinois.
919 Chestnut Street.



THE POULTRY MESSENGER

Personal Mention.

J. L. McCorkell, Akron, Iowa, won 1st cock, 2nd hen and 2nd pen on White Wyandottes at the LeMars show the past season. The Messenger editor saw and admired the birds he had on exhibition there. Mr. McCorkell also breeds Pekin Ducks of the best quality, and reports an active egg trade this spring.

Geo. J. Nissly, Saline, Michigan, has for sale "everything for the poultry yard," and readers of The Messenger will find no better place to send their orders. His prices are right, and so are his methods of dealing. His catalogue should be in the hands of every western breeder.

Mrs. Silas Cobbs, Marathon, Iowa, is prepared to convince you that her Barred Plymouth Rocks, Pekin Ducks and M. B. Turkeys are such as it will pay you to buy. Mrs. Cobbs' turkeys took first premium at the Sioux City show this season.

The catalogue of L. E. Alexander, Sutherland, Iowa, has been received at this office. Mr. Alexander has White Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes in his breeding pens scoring from 92 to 95½ points. He also breeds Barred Plymouth Rocks of the best quality.

P. D. Wine, Aurelia, Ia., who for four years past has devoted his attention solely to Buff Wyandottes, finds the bulk of his trade this season in orders from former customers. Those who have once bought Buff Wyandottes of Mr. Wine know where to go when they again want good birds of that variety.

Those who will send for the catalogue of N. S. Nelson, Lanark, Illinois, will discover some scores and show records in it on Buff Plymouth Rocks, Barred Plymouth Rocks and Golden Sebright Bantams which will leave no doubt on their minds concerning the high quality of the poultry bred at this plant. The catalogue is a beauty. Send for it.

W. H. Miller, Independence, Iowa, writes: "Since ordering my advertisement this winter I have moved on to my small farm at Independence where my whole time will be employed in caring for my Poland-China swine and Barred Plymouth Rocks. My yards are at east end of Main street, only ten minutes walk from street car line. I can

furnish eggs in large quantities at a low rate to those wanting eggs for incubator purposes "

American White Ply. Rock Club.

The American White Plymouth Rock Club has been organized with the following officers: President, U. R. Fishel, Hope, Indiana: Vice-President, Oscar W. Gronlun, Elgin, Illinois: Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Heck, New Albany, Indiana.

This is certainly the right move on the part of the breeders of White Plymouth Rocks, and it is strange that such action has not been taken long ago. The breed is no doubt one of the most popular ones in existence as is evidenced by the number of persons handling them. The fancier has a large field in which to exercise his skill when he adopts this breed, as it requires intelligent and systematic labor to obtain the snow white plumage and rich yellow legs and skin. Fine specimens of this breed never fail to find a purchaser at a long price, and their popularity is well merited. All breeders of White Plymouth Rocks are urged to unite themselves with the organization, as plans are now being perfected which will make a membership very beneficial and of great advantage to each individual member. The membership fee is one dollar, and should be sent to Frank Heck, Secretary and Treasurer, New Albany, Indiana.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

EXCLUSIVELY.

Can spare a few sittings from choice-mated pens at \$2.00 for 13 eggs. My birds are great layers of large brown eggs.

M. W. BALDWIN,

Sioux City, Iowa.

REFERENCE: Any bank or reputable merchant here.

Eggs from the Best Strains of

Barred and White Ply. Rocks,

Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown, Buff and White Leghorns, and Black Minorcas. One dollar for 13 eggs. Send for circular.

CHAS. RUE, Minerva, Ohio.

BUFF PLY. ROCK BARRED PLY. ROCK GOLDEN S. BANTAM Eggs

I raise prize winners from eggs. You can do the same by buying of me. My Rocks have a show record which is equaled by but a very few. I have shown Barred P. Rocks 7 times in succession and have never been beaten on a cockerel; never been beaten in Buffs and have shown 5 times in strong competition. Buff eggs \$3 and \$4 per 15, \$5 and \$7 per 30. Barred \$2, \$3 and \$4 per 15; \$3.50, 5.00 and \$7.00 per 30. Catalogue, illustrated with photos of my prize winners, free. Send for it. Mention this paper.

M. S. NELSON, Lanark, Illinois.

Barred PLY. ROCKS.

Eggs for hatching. \$2.00 for 13, \$4.00 for 30 from four fine matings.

BUFF COCHIN BANTAMS--A Show Pen.

Eggs \$2.00 per 13. A few Barred P. Rock hens for sale.

Poland China Swine of popular breeding. Herd headed by Happy Boy, 44963.

Success Beardless Barley.

W. H. MILLER, Independence, Iowa.

Eggs for Hatching.

White Wyandottes, } \$2.00 for 13;
Barred P. Rocks, } \$3.50 for 26.
Black Red Game Bantams, \$1.00 for 13.
Pekin Ducks (extra large), \$1.50 for 11.
Standard Belgian Hares, \$2.00 a pair.
Send for circular. Free if you mention Messenger.

G. A. C. CLARKE, LeMars, Iowa.

\$1.000 PER ACRE, Growing Strawberries

Is often realized. With good land and varieties he who is not getting 300 to 400 bushels per acre is not getting what it should produce. GET YOUR EYES OPEN! Find out what a few acres will do, and how to raise big luscious strawberries that NEVER BEG FOR A BUYER. My large catalogue and wall calendar for 1898, which is one of the largest and finest illustrated private magazines sent out, price 15 cents, will tell you all about my nursery stock, and of my fancy bred and hunting dogs, ferrets and thoroughbred poultry—Hamburgs, Houdans, Indian Games, Wyandottes, Brahmas, Leghorns, Spanish, Red Caps, Andalusians, Plymouth Rocks, including all the handsome new buff breeds. It is free to all who mention this paper when writing to

Wick B. Hathaway,

Madison, Lake County, Ohio,

The veteran Breeder, Exhibitor, Exporter, Importer and Expert Critic who has had more actual orders for export to, and made more importations from foreign countries, than any breeder in America, and whose exhibits have been awarded highest honors at America's best shows from OCEAN TO OCEAN.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

Eggshells for Egg Eating Hens.

EDITOR MESSENGER:

With reference to the item in your last issue about egg eating hens and the egg shell cure I will offer my experience. Whilst on exhibition at the last Chicago Show my Silver Duck Wing Game Bantams took to eating the eggs they laid in the coop. As they were also exhibited here in Le Mars immediately after the Chicago Show, the habit became pretty well fixed, and as I thought at the time, almost incurable. I happened to come across the item to which you referred in your last and put it in practice immediately, with the result that the habit was speedily cured and the offense has never been repeated. There were 2 cockerels and 2 pullets in the pen and the shells from about a dozen eggs thrown in the pen (they had no other food for three days) did the trick. This business of egg eating after exhibitions has always bothered me; now I am at no loss for a cure.

A most effective (and cheap) liquid lice killer can be made by dissolving a pound of naptalene (crystals) in one and one-fourth gallons of kerosene. Put the mixture into a jug or can and shake occasionally. It will be ready for use in 24 to 48 hours. Apply the same as any liquid lice killer by painting it on the roosts and droppings platforms.

To drive lice from setting hens: at the time of putting them on eggs put in the nest two or three naptalene balls (moth balls such as are used in furs etc.) At the expiration of the 21 days the heat from the hen's body will have nearly evaporated the chemical, the lice will have vacated for other pastures, and this without injury to the eggs.

For layers nesting material tobacco stems, such as can be got at any cigar factory, are away ahead of hay, straw or any other thing.

G. A. C. CLARKE,
LeMars, Iowa.

Spokane's New Paper.

The rapid growth of the poultry industry in that vast region lying between the Rocky and Cascade Mountains has called into existence the Inter-Mountain Poultry Journal, a neat, 20-page, up-to-date publication. The progressive breeder should keep pace with the industry in this favored region. The subscription price is 50c. Send to the

publishers at Rockford, Washington, for a free sample copy.

Geo. S. Barnes, Battle Creek, Michigan, new Buff Leghorn circular has been received at this office. It is eight pages, 8x11 inch per page, profusely illustrated. Mr. Barnes has a show record on his Buffs since 1891 and this season at Sturgis, Detroit and Chicago. The circular is free.

Basket Labels Free.

If you will send us the names and addresses of ten breeders of thoroughbred poultry of your acquaintance, or of farmers who give special attention to poultry culture, we will mail you 25 finely printed basket labels free.

Send us names of personal acquaintances, or those of poultrymen with whom you or your friends have had correspondence, and DON'T make up your list from the advertising columns of the poultry journals. Write names and addresses plainly.

WELCH'S Single-Comb BROWN LEGHORNS

Good birds for sale at all times for breeding and show purposes at reasonable prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Eggs in season, \$1.50 per sitting. Correspondence promptly answered.

Wolverine Poultry Yard.

Jas. C. Welch, Prop. Lansing, Mich.

Incubators FOR CASH OR ON 30 Days Trial.



Any Size.
Any Kind.

Cash, \$5.00.
Self-Regulating

Trial, \$5.75
50-Egg
Size.

Or Larger and Better Ones.

"My three hatches with Bantam, from 50 eggs each, were 20, 37 and 48 chicks. Jacob Whippert, Cecil, Ohio."

Send 4c for 104 Catalogue and Trial Offer.

BUCKEYE INCUBATOR CO. Springfield, O.

In the country, village, or in the suburb money may be made in the poultry business by the employment of correct methods. You can't afford to keep hens to hatch and brood your chicks. A better and more economical plan and one more certain of good results will be found in the use of the

RELIABLE INCUBATOR & BROODER.

The remainder of the story and plan of procedure is in our Book on Incubation and Poultry. Send 10 cents for it.

RELIABLE INCUB & BROODER CO., QUINCY, ILL.



MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

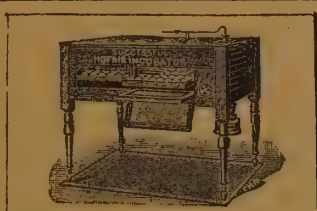


SWINGING FEED TRAY FOR POULTRY.

Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.

MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY for poultry will save its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments.

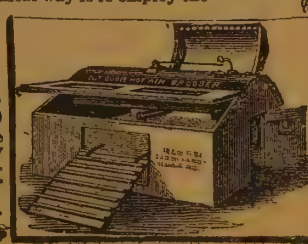
F.W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.



How Rich are You?

That may sound like an impertinent question, but let us assure you that is a very pertinent one. Are you rich enough to waste your time and your eggs by entrusting the hatching to hens? Can you not keep them more profitably employed in laying eggs than in hatching and brooding chickens? Can you afford to entrust high priced eggs and valuable blooded chicks to the whims of an old hen? We think not. The better and more economical way is to employ the

SUCCESSFUL INBUBATORS and BROODERS



THEY WILL HATCH ANY EGG THAT THE HEN COULD HATCH and will brood and grow every chick that has vitality enough to live. They don't break any eggs, or trample to death any chicks. They don't require any feed and they never leave the nest. They don't get lousy. They are disease proof. O, they are better in a hundred ways. No better machines than these made. More about them and much valuable information in our 130 page illustrated Catalogue. Des Moines Incub. Co. P. O. Box 100, Des Moines, Iowa. Sent for 6c. in stamps.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

Advantages of a Uniform Flock.

To the new beginner or amateur in poultry raising, it is often a perplexing, not to say difficult, question, to decide just what course to pursue in selecting and buying the fowls which are to constitute his stock in trade. With the vast majority of people, especially the farming class, mongrels, dunghills or Shanghais have been the only class of chickens they were familiar with, and, as a rule, the only kind they were capable of judging or drawing comparisons from. These fowls they have been accustomed to see ranging unrestricted over the place, ever foraging for their own sustenance, and selecting and secreting their own nests; bringing forth their young unaided by human hands, and often unknown to their owners; rearing half, or probably six out of eighteen hatched chicks, owing to the care and individual watchfulness of the mother hen; and, as the cool nights of autumn begin to be felt, the few which have been fortunate enough to escape the talons of the hawks or owls, skunks or other vermin, coming to the barn or hen-house for shelter, where the old hen possibly had wintered previously.

Sometimes the eggs would be found, by accident or rigid search, and sometimes a young rooster was wanted for a fry, and was accordingly ran down with a gun, or clubs and rocks for missiles. This was—and, in fact is, even now—the modus operandi of poultry culture on thousands of farms.

How different, then, is the other side—or the side which of late years is so frequently branded as "Poultry for Profit"—to the novice or new beginner who is sincere in his desire to try the "new" method of raising poultry. The contrast must be self-evident. He has, I will say, been accustomed to not only this slipshod way of keeping poultry, but he has always been used to seeing all varieties, colors and sizes in the home flocks. He has never had an opportunity of gazing on even a half-dozen fowls of uniform character and color, and, no doubt he, like myself, when I saw for the first time a flock of Barred Plymouth Rocks, felt that it was a sight "fit for sore eyes." Many times, visitors to my yards, when they see my flocks—which, by the way, are all of white varieties—exclaim: "How beautiful!" "So nice!" etc. Such persons, as a rule, are unacquainted with the

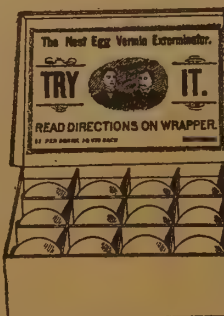
possibilities of the poultry industry. They are being educated up to this point, and we, who are more acquainted with purebred poultry and its importance as an industry, should have charity for such of our patrons. Let us not be impatient in any of our answers to well-meaning questions, for remember, this is an age of education, and each must do his part and do it cheerfully.

The amateur, in casting about for fowls to stock up, should always give due regard to future results. The variety he selects is not so material as the conditions and environments which surround him. These should guide him; and when he selects the class of fowls best suited to these two features, he should take only purebred ones. * * * We have all weights from Leghorns up to Brahmas. The most fastidious ought to be suited somewhere in the great galaxy of birds. So, I would advise the selection of some one variety and keeping up your selection, and mating along this line very soon. After you have grown more accustomed to your one-color flock, you will wonder how you ever could own and rear all colors and sizes, high single combs and low rose combs. Not one person in a thousand, I will venture to say, would return to the old regime. This is surely proof enough that the breeding of a uniform flock has great advantages over that of cross-breeding. Nothing is more beautiful than to pass a farm house where two or three hundred fowls, all of one color and appearance, can be seen contentedly parading over the premises.—The Poultry West.

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Pure Northup strain. I will sell a limited number of eggs at \$2 per setting from pen scoring as follows: Cockerel 93%; pullets 92 to 95, by Russell and B. N. Pierce. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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Mrs. S. M. Long, Magnolia, Minn. Five breeds purebred poultry. Send for free price list of stock and eggs.

Light Brahmas, White Plymouth and Black Minorcas. All first-class birds. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of fifteen. **T. P. EBERSOLE, Manson, Iowa.**

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Ornamental B. Polish, Eggs \$4.00 per sitting. Black Langshans and Brown Leghorns \$1 per sitting. **Dr. John L. Marsh, Brownsburg, Ind.**

Buff leghorns. Eggs from choice stock at \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Inquiries promptly answered.

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LOOK HERE! I won two firsts and one third on three entries at the Minneapolis show. **J. Y. Bicknell, judge.** I have Silver Wyandottes, White and Buff Rocks, Red Caps, Rouen and Pekin Ducks, and Toulouse Geese just as good. Send for circular and order eggs now. **R. J. Holman, Waupaca, Wisconsin.**

18 YEARS A BREEDER Barred P. Rocks —Exclusively.— Eggs \$1.00 per 15; also breeder Jersey cattle, Cotswold sheep and Duroc-Jersey swine. Stock of both sexes for sale at living prices. **N. B. Shaffer, Newcastle, Indiana.**

Barred Plymouth Rocks

Stock and Eggs. Write wants. **W. A. Shipton, Uhrichville, Ohio.**

Exchange Clippings.

Our lost friend, John H. Robinson, had on exhibition a pen of what he called "utilitee" Buff Leghorns. He won on them fourth pen and fourth hen. Say, brethren, but two of the hens in this pen were a sight! They looked as though they might weigh six pounds apiece, about a half a pound of which was comb, and in shape these two hens were like two big triangles, with a head, a tail and two legs fastened to the points of each. John took us around to see this pen. We had been there before! Several people wanted us to see them. After looking at these birds we told John, in all seriousness, that his case was hopeless, so far as we personally are concerned; that his redemption is not a task for man, but for the Almighty. Where a man can be proud of two monstrosities like those, dignifying them with the name of Leghorns, we regretfully give up all hope of saving him. Aside from the error of his ways as the captain of the phantom ship "Utilitee," John is a right clever fellow. We took dinner with him at a third party's expense, and would be meaner than anybody if we did not speak kindly of him where we can. But John is obstinate. He is going to cling to this "utilitee" bugaboo, even if it makes regular old tubs of the nobby Leghorn and puts high stilts under the marvelous Cochins. We regretfully and grudgingly turn his case over to a higher power.—Reliable Poultry Journal.

The tidal-wave of poultry culture has swept through our land with rapid strides in the past ten years. It is going to sweep with greater and wider force in the ten years that are to follow. Though thoroughbred, standard bred fowls, have been known and bred for years, the extent of such knowledge has been very materially limited, and our people have clung beyond all manner of reason to the fowls that have been cross-bred and crossed and re-crossed again and again, until there was nothing of value left in the few yearly-raised mongrels that have graced, or "disgraced," so many of our farms. It is no great wonder that "the poultry business" has been by many condemned, and declared as unprofitable. It has been unprofitable to many. It will continue to be unprofitable, un-

til new ideas and understanding have been accepted and embraced, and until those who are traversing their way through life in deep cut grooves shall step aside from the old ways, and entertain the new and better.—Western Garden.

Some people just starting in the business, find it very difficult to raise young chicks. There is no trouble in raising chicks if the right course is taken. Leave the chicks in the nest with the hen twenty-four hours after they are hatched as nature has provided them with all the food they need in the absorption of the yolk for the first twenty-four hours; after that, take the hen and chicks and put them in a coop for several days, until the young chicks get strength enough to follow the hen, then let them run and do not pen up, or you will have poor, weakly chicks. Letting them run at large is the whole secret in raising chicks. Why do your common dung hills do so well? Because you do not take so much pains with them as with the blooded stock. You let them have their own way, and when fall comes you have a fine lot of grown up chicks. Just so with all blooded stock. Do not think of trying to save every chick by penning them up and watching them all the time. Let them have their own way, the same as you did before you had blooded chickens.—From Geo. J. Gleason's Circular.

MY WINNINGS

At the LeMars, Iowa, Show, Hewes, judge, were as follows:

On Black Langshans,

1st cockerel, 1st hen, 2nd pullet

On Buff Leghorns,

1st cockerel, 1st and 3rd pullets, 1st hen and 1st pen. This victory was obtained over strong competition in both classes. I am selling eggs from choice pens of both breeds at \$1.50 per sitting.

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Breeder of the Best Buff Rocks in the West.

Fruit Department.

The Best Time to Plant Strawberries.

Mr. Editor:—There is a question with many people in regard to when is the best time to set strawberry plants. I say, emphatically, spring. It is true that plants can be set at any time during the summer season. I have tried setting plants every month during the summer and made them grow, yet I contend that there is only one season that is the proper time to set strawberry plants, and that is April, May or June. I think that it is a waste of time for any one to set plants later than June. In the first place, there are but few people who can set plants in summer or fall and make them grow, and in the next place, if they do grow, what have you got? Simply a few straggling plants. You would get a few berries from these few plants, but will you get sufficient fruit for the extra expense and labor? While one person may get fairly good results, nine out of ten will make a complete failure of it. Just why some nurserymen should continue to sell or offer to sell plants in the fall, when they know that the parties planting them don't stand one chance in ten of making them live, is beyond my comprehension. Last fall a nurseryman came to me for 500 plants of a variety he did not have. I said to him: "I don't like to sell them to you now, as you can't make them live, it is so dry." He said it was to fill an order for another nurseryman whom he had sold plants to. I said: "Why do you advise planting in the fall?" He replied. "I don't, but they will persist in wanting them, and I am going to sell them. I don't care if every plant dies." Now, Mr. Editor, what we want to do is to teach the people that it is folly to plant anything out of the ordinary season or proper time to plant. There is a time to plant and a time to sow, and the best and only time to plant strawberries is in the spring. By planting in the spring the plants get established or well rooted. They will also make many new plants, which will make good, strong ones that will throw up strong fruit stems next spring. In fact, with careful culture you can have a well filled row of plants that will occupy all the ground in the row, and you can then expect a reason-

able crop of berries from them the coming spring; but when planting in the fall, only a portion of the plants will live and will make but very few if any runners, and the consequence is your crop of berries will be very small. You will be obliged to continue hoeing and caring for them until the second spring before you get anything like a crop of berries from them.

Here are my reasons for not planting in the fall: First, plants cost more; second, the chances are that but few will live; third, what do live cause me to work from the time they are set out till late fall, and then they have to be covered and cared for just as though they were full rows, and then we only get a small crop.

Then, after the small crop is harvested, your ground is in poor condition to continue your cultivation, as it is packed and full of weeds. The plants that are there will grow, of course, but I would rather have my ground especially prepared and set new plants than to take your old bed you planted in the fall, as my newly set plants will take hold and grow, the ground is in better condition, is much easier to cultivate and keep clean, and by fall I will have a fine bed of plants, just as good and I consider far better than your fall set bed; the ground will be in better shape to receive moisture during the winter and the next spring, barring accidents, I will have a strawberry crop that will bring a broad smile and many shekels.—J. L. Todd in Iowa Homestead.

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E. SOMERSVILLE, MASS., July 6, 1897.

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In answer to your inquiry as to what I consider the True merits of "Mica-Crystal Grit," I would say:

If poultrymen in purchasing Grit would keep in mind the fact that what they want is a **Grinder** common experience should then teach them that the first test of a **Grinder** is its sharpness, and second, its ability to remain sharp, or the possession of some quality that permits it to resharpen itself; the fact that it possesses other qualities (more or less beneficial to the poultry), while they add to the value of the grit, are of secondary consideration.

Crushed oyster shells, although apparently hard, and possessing sharp edges, are so largely composed of lime, that they are practically dissolved by the fluids in the crop, and such portions of them as do remain are useless for grinding purposes when they reach the gizzard.

Many people simply consider the looks of the article, forgetting that the natural instincts of the fowl is a better guide than the "eye of the master."

Again a grit may be made of too hard or too soft a substance. If too hard, the action of the gizzard will soon reduce the sharp substance to a smooth pebble, something that will slowly crush, but never grind; if too soft, **LIKE ALL LIMESTONE GRITS**, they quickly go to pieces, without accomplishing the desired results.

It is in such a practical consideration of the different kinds of grit now offered for sale on the market, that the true worth of "Mica-Crystal Grit" is seen and understood, and entitles it to be called the

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"Mica-Crystal Grit," be it understood, is made from a **Rock of Peculiar Formation**, composed partly of quartz, which is the hardest of rock substances, and partly of mica, which is a flaky substance. These two substances are piled in countless layers, one upon the other, thus forming what is called a flaky or friable rock, by which is meant a rock which, when subjected to pressure, will scale or flake; the sharp particles of quartz are, as it were, embedded in mica, so that the rotary motion of the contents of the gizzard, in bringing the different pieces of grit in contact with each other, causes small particles to flake off, thus constantly resharpening themselves until they are entirely used up.

I have made many tests to demonstrate the worth of "Mica-Crystal Grit," and in every instance that came under my observation, no matter how small the particles were, remaining in the gizzard, they still retained their sharp cutting edges.

The iron in "Mica-Crystal Grit" is practically all contained in the mica, and is in its purest and best form, and I have yet to find the practical poultryman who has failed to observe its beneficial effects on his birds, young or old.

I have no doubt the lime and magnesium both contribute their share to the welfare of the flock, although my researches in this line will not allow me to positively state their effects.

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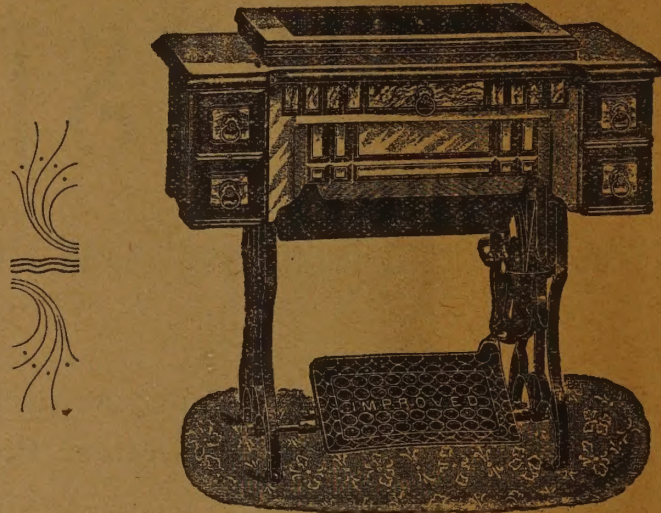
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